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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Thursday 19 January 1978

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NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

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EGYPT-ISRAEL: Sadat Recalls Kamil

[] Egyptian President Sadat's recall yesterday of Foreign Minister Kamil from the political talks in Jerusalem underscores his frustration with the slow pace of peace negotiations and is part of his effort to increase pressure on Israel to alter its approach. Sadat also called an extraordinary session of the People's Assembly for Saturday; in the past he has used this forum to make dramatic announcements.


[] Sadat vowed in a recent interview to resign if peace talks became deadlocked, but the official statement announcing Kamil's recall gave no hint that this was in the works. The Egyptian President's tactics have left Israeli leaders stunned. The Israeli cabinet held a special session last night and issued a statement sharply criticizing Sadat's move.

[] Recent pressure tactics through public statements by both sides had provided a shaky start for the political talks. Egyptian unhappiness with Israel's approach has been clear for some time, but it is unlikely that Sadat has given up totally on negotiations. Press reports from Cairo assert that he has agreed to resume talks on Saturday in the separate military committee, which deals essentially with bilateral concerns in the Sinai. Prime Minister Begin announced after last night's cabinet meeting that Israel would "consider" resumption of the military talks.

[] Egypt's statement yesterday on the recall of Kamil charged Israel with presenting partial solutions and asserted that Egypt will no longer haggle over peripheral aspects of the Arab-Israeli problem. It emphasized that negotiations must center on Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and on the Palestinian right of self-determination.

[] This same frustration with Israel's approach was apparent in recent public statements by Sadat and in the Egyptian media's treatment of negotiations. In an interview with the authoritative Cairo magazine *October* last weekend, Sadat expressed doubt that the talks in Jerusalem would produce the comprehensive declaration of principles he wants, and he said "that is why we will adopt another stand."

[] In an interview with the *Jerusalem Post*, also released last weekend, Sadat appeared to appeal directly to the



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